

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Original): A method for mining mass spectra, comprising:  
specifying spectral characteristics of said mass spectra to mine;  
specifying a relationship between said spectral characteristics;  
searching said mass spectra for portions of said mass spectra which match said spectral characteristics based on said relationship; and  
assigning scores to said portions of said mass spectra to indicate a degree of correlation between said portions of said mass spectra and said spectral characteristics.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein said mass spectra are obtained by any one of dissociation and full-scan.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of specifying spectral characteristics includes specifying at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series.

Claim 4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein  
said step of specifying a relationship includes identifying each of said spectral characteristics as being one of a primary and a secondary spectral characteristic, said secondary spectral characteristic being linked hierarchically with said primary spectral characteristic and detected only after said primary spectral characteristic is detected.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 3, wherein

said step of specifying at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series  
comprises specifying each of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series; and

said assigning step includes:

- calculating a product ion score;
- calculating a loss ion score;
- calculating an ion series score;
- adjusting said product ion, loss ion, or said ion series score if respective said product ion, loss ion, or ion series spectral characteristic is secondary; and
- adding said product ion, loss ion, and ion series scores.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the step of calculating a product ion score includes:

- identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said product ion spectral characteristic; and
- setting said product ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein the step of calculating a loss ion score includes: calculating a loss ion mass per unit charge based on an actual precursor ion mass per unit charge and said loss ion spectral characteristic;

- identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said calculated loss ion mass per unit charge; and
- setting said loss ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said step of calculating said ion series score includes:

specifying distances between ions in an ion series as the ion series spectral characteristic;

generating hypothetical ions separated by said specified distances;

aligning said mass spectra with said hypothetical ions;

identifying most abundant ions within respective windows around said aligned mass spectra at said specified distances; and

setting said ion series score as a geometric mean of a percentage of total ion current of said identified ions,

wherein said ion series score includes the following

$$N(I_1 \cdot I_2 \cdot I_3 \cdot \dots \cdot I_n)^{1/n}$$

where N is a number of said identified ions that correspond to said hypothetical ions and  $I_1$ - $I_n$  are respective percentages of said total ion current of said identified ions.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 5, wherein said adjusting step includes:

setting said secondary spectral characteristic score as a geometric mean of a primary spectral characteristic score and said secondary spectral characteristic score,

wherein said secondary spectral characteristic score does not exceed said primary spectral characteristic score to which said secondary spectral characteristic score is linked.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

preprocessing said mass spectra; and displaying said scores from said assigning step.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein said preprocessing step includes:

subtracting nonfragment ions from said mass spectra;

estimating precursor charge of mass spectra resulting from said subtracting step; and  
normalizing ion intensities of mass spectra from said estimating step as a percentage  
of a total ion current.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein the displaying step includes  
displaying said scores in one of tabular and graphical form.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the step of specifying spectral  
characteristics includes automatically specifying said spectral characteristics based on said  
mass spectra, and

wherein the step of specifying a relationship includes automatically specifying said  
relationship based on said mass spectra.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
adjusting control parameters of a device that produces said mass spectra based on said  
assigned scores.

Claim 15 (Original): A method for mining collision-induced dissociation (CID)  
spectra, comprising:  
specifying spectral characteristics of said CID spectra to mine;  
specifying a relationship between said spectral characteristics;  
searching said CID spectra for portions of said CID spectra which match said spectral  
characteristics based on said relationship; and  
assigning scores to said portions of said CID spectra to indicate a degree of  
correlation between said portions of said CID spectra and said spectral characteristics.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of specifying spectral characteristics includes specifying at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series.

Claim 17 (Original). The method of claim 15, wherein  
said step of specifying a relationship includes identifying each of said spectral characteristics as being one of a primary and a secondary spectral characteristic, said secondary spectral characteristic being linked hierarchically with said primary spectral characteristic and detected only after said primary spectral characteristic is detected

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 16, wherein  
said step of specifying at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series  
comprises specifying each of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series; and  
said assigning step includes:

- calculating a product ion score;
- calculating a loss ion score;
- calculating an ion series score;
- adjusting said product ion, loss ion, or said ion series score if respective said product ion, loss ion, or ion series spectral characteristic is secondary; and
- adding said product ion, loss ion, and ion series scores.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of calculating a product ion score includes:  
identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said product ion spectral characteristic; and

setting said product ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the step of calculating a loss ion score includes:

calculating a loss ion mass per unit charge based on an actual precursor ion mass per unit charge and said loss ion spectral characteristic;

identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said calculated loss ion mass per unit charge; and

setting said loss ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein said step of calculating said ion series score includes:

specifying distances between ions in an ion series as the ion series spectral characteristic;

generating hypothetical ions separated by said specified distances;

aligning said CID spectra with said hypothetical ions;

identifying most abundant ions within respective windows around said aligned CID spectra at said specified distances; and

setting said ion series score as a geometric mean of a percentage of total ion current of said identified ions,

wherein said ion series score includes the following

$$N(I_1 \cdot I_2 \cdot I_3 \cdot \dots \cdot I_n)^{1/n}$$

where N is a number of said identified ions that correspond to said hypothetical ions and  $I_1$ - $I_n$  are respective percentages of said total ion current of said identified ions.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein said adjusting step includes:  
setting said secondary spectral characteristic score as a geometric mean of a primary spectral characteristic score and said secondary spectral characteristic score,  
wherein said secondary spectral characteristic score does not exceed said primary spectral characteristic score to which said secondary spectral characteristic score is linked.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising: preprocessing said CID spectra; and displaying said scores from said assigning step.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein said preprocessing step includes:  
subtracting nonfragment ions from said CID spectra;  
estimating precursor charge of CID spectra resulting from said subtracting step; and  
normalizing ion intensities of CID spectra from said estimating step as a percentage of a total ion current.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 23, wherein the displaying step includes displaying said scores in one of tabular and graphical form.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of specifying spectral characteristics includes automatically specifying said spectral characteristics based on said CID spectra, and  
wherein the step of specifying a relationship includes automatically specifying said relationship based on said CID spectra.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
  
adjusting control parameters of a device that produces said CID spectra based on said assigned scores.

Claim 28 (Original): A system for mining mass spectra, comprising:  
  
means for specifying spectral characteristics of said mass spectra to mine;  
  
means for specifying a relationship between said spectral characteristics;  
  
means for searching said mass spectra for portions of said mass spectra which match said spectral characteristics based on said relationship; and  
  
means for assigning scores to said portions of said mass spectra to indicate a degree of correlation between said portions of said mass spectra and said spectral characteristics.

Claim 29 (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein said mass spectra are obtained by any one of dissociation and full-scan.

Claim 30 (Original): The system of claim 28, further comprising:  
  
means for preprocessing said mass spectra; and  
  
means for displaying said scores from said assigning means.

Claim 31 (Original): The system of claim 28, wherein the means for specifying spectral characteristics includes means for automatically specifying said spectral characteristics based on said mass spectra, and  
  
wherein the means for specifying a relationship includes means for automatically specifying said relationship based on said mass spectra.



Claim 32 (Original): The system of claim 28, further comprising:  
  
means for adjusting control parameters of a device that produces said mass spectra  
  
based on said assigned scores.

Claim 33 (Original): A system comprising:  
  
a memory device having embodied therein mass spectra; and  
  
a processor in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to  
  
specify spectral characteristics of said mass spectra to identify,  
  
specify a relationship between said spectral characteristics,  
  
search said mass spectra for portions of said mass spectra which match said  
  
spectral characteristics based on said relationship, and  
  
assign scores to said portions of said mass spectra to indicate a degree of  
  
correlation between said portions of said mass spectra and said spectral  
  
characteristics.

Claim 34 (Original): A computer program product including a computer readable  
medium for mining mass spectra, comprising:  
  
a graphical user interface code configured to allow a user to input spectral  
characteristics to mine and specify a relationship between said spectral characteristics; and  
  
a mining code configured to search said mass spectra for portions of said mass  
spectra matching said spectral characteristics based on said relationship and assign  
scores to said portions of said mass spectra to indicate a degree of correlation between  
said portions of said mass spectra and said spectral characteristics.

Claim 35 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34, wherein said mass spectra are obtained by any one of dissociation and full-scan.

Claim 36 (Original). The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the graphical user interface code is configured

- to accept at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series as an input,
- identify said spectral characteristics as being one of a primary and a secondary spectral characteristic, and
- link said secondary spectral characteristic with said primary spectral characteristic such that said secondary spectral characteristic is detected only after said primary spectral characteristic is detected

Claim 37 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the graphical user interface code comprises:

- a control window configured to input the spectral characteristics and the relationship between said spectral characteristics of said mass spectra; and
- a results window configured to display said scores of said mass spectra.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): The computer program product of ~~claim 36~~claim 34, wherein

said at least one of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series comprises each of a product ion, a loss ion, and an ion series; and

- the mining code is configured to
  - calculate a product ion score,
  - calculate a loss ion score,

calculate an ion series score,

adjust said product ion, loss ion, or said ion series score if respective said product ion, loss ion, or ion series spectral characteristic is secondary, wherein said secondary spectral characteristic score does not exceed said primary spectral characteristic score to which said secondary spectral characteristic score is linked, and add said product ion, loss ion, and ion series scores.

Claim 39 (Original): The computer program product of claim 38, wherein said mining code is further configured to

calculate the product ion score by identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said product ion spectral characteristic and setting said product ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion,

calculate the loss ion score by calculating a loss ion mass per unit charge based on an actual precursor ion mass per unit charge and said loss ion spectral characteristic, identifying a most abundant ion within a window around said calculated loss ion mass per unit charge, and setting said loss ion score as a percentage of total ion current of said identified ion, and

calculate the ion series score by specifying distances between ions in an ion series as the ion series spectral characteristic, generating hypothetical ions separated by said specified distances, aligning said mass spectra with said hypothetical ions, identifying most abundant ions within respective windows around said aligned mass spectra at said specified distances, and setting said ion series score as a geometric mean of a percentage of total ion current of said identified ions,

wherein said ion series score includes the following

$$N(I_1 \cdot I_2 \cdot I_3 \cdot \dots \cdot I_n)^{1/n}$$

where  $N$  is a number of said identified ions that correspond to said hypothetical ions and  $I_1$ - $I_n$  are respective percentages of said total ion current of said identified ions.

Claim 40 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34, further comprising:  
a preprocessing code configured to process said mass spectra prior to mining in order to remove spurious mass spectra.

Claim 41 (Original): The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the preprocessing code is configured to  
subtract nonfragment ions from said mass spectra,  
estimate precursor charge of mass spectra resulting from said subtracting step, and  
normalize ion intensities of mass spectra from said estimating step as a percentage of a total ion current.

Claim 42 (Original): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the graphical user interface code further comprises:  
a product ion window configured to input said product ion spectral characteristic;  
a loss ion window configured to input said loss ion spectral characteristic; and  
an ion series window configured to input said ion series spectral characteristic,  
wherein said product ion, loss ion, and ion series windows open when respective said spectral characteristics are selected in said control window.

Claim 43 (Original): The computer program product of claim 37, wherein said results window displays said scores in one of tabular and graphical form.

Claim 44 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34, wherein the graphical user interface code is configured to accept automatically specified said spectral characteristics and said relationship based on said mass spectra.

Claim 45 (Original): The computer program product of claim 34, further comprising:  
a control code configured to adjust control parameters of a device which generates said mass spectra based on said assigned scores.

Claim 46 (Original): A computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer system, which when executed by the computer system, cause the computer system to perform the method recited in any one of claims 1 through 14.

Claim 47 (Original): A graphical user interface, comprising:  
a control window configured to input spectral characteristics and a relationship between said spectral characteristics of mass spectra; and  
a results window configured to display scores of said mass spectra indicating how well said mass spectra match said spectral characteristics.

Claim 48 (Original): The graphical user interface of claim 47, wherein said results window displays said scores in one of tabular and graphical form.